



## Patience pays off for Adam boys

**IT'S been a long time coming, but the father-and-son pairing of Gary and Gordon Adam finally clocked up their first outright rally win since 2002.**

And they did it in style, clinching the honours on the Snowman Rally, the first round of the 2007 County Saab MSA Scottish Rally Championship.

Adam, returning to a full season of rallying this year, built up his pace over the course of the day to deny two-time Scottish champion Barry Johnson a hat-trick of Snowman wins.

After a steady first few stages, the company director from Dollar, pictured below, posted a stunning time on the fourth test of the day in his Subaru Impreza, taking 21 seconds out of his Shildon-based rival's Impreza WRC in the process.

Rounding out the podium positions, Inverness restaurant proprietor Jimmy Girvan and Forres businessman Mike Ramsay took third place on their home event as they continue to develop their Impreza, edging out Cockermouth's Paul Benn on the final stage.

Nonetheless, Benn and co-driver Richard Cooke were more than satisfied with another solid run in their Ford Focus WRC as



they kept their car out of trouble in slippery conditions to get their 2007 campaign off to a solid start.

Meantime, Alick Kerr and Dave Retson took first blood in the 2007 Brick and Steel 205 Ecosse Challenge, winning the 1.9 and 1.6 classes respectively.

In particular, Kerr demonstrated the awesome potential of the new 1.9 Ecosse Challenge cars, finishing just off the two-wheel drive podium in spite of a difficult day as he tried to get to grips with his new car.

On the other hand, there were no such troubles for Inverness driver Dave Retson, who kept his cool to record a win in the 1.6 category, which was held over the first four stages of the main Snowman Rally.

In total, five newly-build 1.9 205s made the starting line, their drivers eager to prove they were capable of making the step up from the 1600 car.

Early signs were good for the 1.9 pilots, with all recording highly-respectable times over the first few runs of the day – but only 18-year-old Alick Kerr from Bothwell was to make it back to the finish, showing the blend of consistency and car sympathy that has been the hallmark of his career so far.

"It took me a long time to get used to the new car today," admitted Alick.

"Over the first few stages I kept missing gearchanges and spinning, but I started to get the hang of it towards the end of the day."

In the smaller-engined machinery, Dave Retson turned in a trademark solid finish, keeping his 205 on the road while many others were falling foul of the slippery conditions to finish first of the smaller 205s.